

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. When media giants act to influence an election in either direction, it's unethical. We don't need media giants telling people how to think. We need them to tell us what the facts are and let us make up our own minds.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. If they're going to air an anti-Kerry program like "Stolen Honor" they should follow it with a pro-Kerry program like "Going Upriver", or better yet, air neither! By influencing voters, they're only serving themselves, not the public. When large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. It's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.